1729-30. The instrumental period began with Dr. J. Lining's observations at Charleston, in 1738. The above, and articles on the storms of the Atlantic, and the creation of meteorological observatories upon islands, are abstracts of papers prepared for the Chicago Congress of Meteorology.—The recurrence of hurricanes in the solar magnetic 26·68 day period, by F. H. Bigelow. The author compares the curves of hurricane recurrences with those of the solar magnetic period. An inspection of the curves shows that they have closely synchronous maxima and minima. Mr. Bigelow concludes that the intensifications of the polar magnetic field have much to do with the generation of West Indian tropical storms, but he admits that many points of the subject are as yet only partially understood.

Bulletins de la Société d'Anthropologie de Paris, Tome iv. (4e Serie), December 15, 1893.—M. Ch. Letourneau describes a stone cross, found at Carnac, with inscriptions. The two arms of this cross are *patée*, like those of a Maltese cross, and the four faces of the quadrangular shaft are covered with inscriptions which resemble in their general character those megalithic inscriptions which are so numerous in the neighbourhood of Locmariaker. As these inscriptions must have been cut subsequently to the fashioning of the cross, we have a very different case to that in which a cross is found carved on a menhir. This cross, with two others of a similar character, are figured by Miln as tail-pieces in his work "Fouilles de Carnac" (Paris, 1877), and he considers them to mark the transition period between Paganism and Christianity. There can be no doubt, however, that the men who chiseled the great menhir of Locmariaker and carved the inscriptions of Gavr Inis were capable of cutting a cross out of stone if they were disposed to do so; afterwards these crosses might have been preserved by the Christians, and even, perhaps, restored by them.—Dr. Paul Raymond contributes a paper on the prehistoric period in the departments of Gard and Ardèche; and M. Désiré Charnay describes the remains of the cliff-dwellers exhibited at the World's Fair at Chicago.—The colour of the eyes has long been looked upon as one of the most important race signs, and Dr. Harreaux proposes a systematic method of describing the iris, which, so far as one can judge without the assistance of plates, will enable qualified observers to record and recognise very minute differences; the system, however, appears to be somewhat too complicated for general use and is surpassed in precision by the iridographic method of Bertillon.—Dr. Ledouble contributes a valuable paper on the anomalies of the great dorsal muscle.—M. A. Pokrovsky describes four crania found by Prof. Obolonsky in the grotto of Sundurli-Koba, near the village of Ouzoundja, in the Crimea. Three out of the four are considerably plagiocephalic, the plagiocephaly being left in two cases and right in the third; two of the crania are male, one is female, and the fourth is that of a child of about twelve years of age.—M. Adrien de Mortillet gives an account of the figures cut on the megalithic monuments near Paris; these are three in number, one in the valley of the Seine, at Aubergenville; the two others in the valley of the Epte, at Dampsmesnil and at Boury. The dolmen at Aubergenville is known as the Trou-aux-Anglais, that at Dampsmesnil is called by the country people the Trou-aux-Loups, while the third is the Dolmen de la Bellehaye.

Bulletin of the New York Mathematical Society, vol. iii. No. 3, December, 1893 (New York).—A doubly-infinite system of simple groups (pp. 73-78) is an abstract of a paper presented to the Congress of Mathematics at Chicago, by Prof. E. H. Moore. The paper is to be published in full in the Proceedings, and also in the *Mathematische Annalen*. Two notes follow, on monogenic functions of a single variable (pp. 78, 79), by Dr. Craig, and Lambert's non-Euclidean geometry (pp. 79, 80), by Prof. Halsted. This latter is very interesting, as it narrates the discovery of an old paper of Lambert's (Zur Theorie der Parallellinien, 1766) on what was long after named the non-Euclidean geometry. Pages 80-88 are taken up with remarks on the teaching of mathematics at Göttingen. There are the usual "notes" and "new publications" (pp. 88-94).

The number of the *Journal of Botany* for December, 1893, contains further Notes on the genus *Potamogeton*, by Mr. A. Fryer, with illustrations; Descriptions of three new African grasses, by Mr. A. B. Rendle; the completion of Mr. E. G. Baker's Synopsis of genera and species of *Malveæ;* and Mr. Carruthers' Report of the Department of Botany in the British Museum for 1892.—The most important papers in the No. for January, 1894, are one on the Primary subdivisions in the genus *Silene*, by Mr. F. N. Williams; and the late Prof. Asa Gray's Last words on nomenclature.

SOCIETIES AND ACADEMIES.

LONDON.

Entomological Society, January 17.—Sixty-first Annual Meeting.—Mr. Frederic Merrifield, Vice-President, in the chair.—An abstract of the treasurer's accounts, showing a balance in the Society's favour, having been read by Mr. J. Jenner Weir, one of the auditors, the secretary, Mr. H. Goss, read the report of the council. It was then announced that the following gentlemen had been elected as officers and council for 1894:—President, Mr. Henry J. Elwes; treasurer, Mr. Robert McLachlan, F.R.S.; secretaries, Mr. Herbert Goss and the Rev. Canon Fowler; librarian, Mr. George C. Champion; and as other members of the council, Mr. Walter F. H. Blandford, Mr. Charles J. Gahan, Mr. Frederic Merrifield, Prof. Edward B. Poulton, F.R.S., Colonel Charles Swinhoe, Mr. George H. Verrall, Mr. James J. Walker, R.N., and the Right Hon. Lord Walsingham, F.R.S. Mr. Merrifield then read the President's address, in which, after alluding to the principal events of the past year, and the prosperous condition of the Society, he referred to the additions which had been made in 1893 to the literature of entomology, calling attention to the "Butterflies of China and Japan," by Mr. J. H. Leech; the "Moths of India," by Mr. G. F. Hampson; "Butterflies of North America," by Mr. W. H. Edwards; "Lepidoptera Indica," by Dr. F. Moore; and the continuation of the "Biologia Centrali-Americana," by Messrs. F. D. Godman, F.R.S., and Osbert Salvin, F.R.S. He also commented on the recent publications of the Grand Duke Nicholas Mikhailovitch, M. Charles Oberthür, and Dr. Staudinger, on the continent. The President concluded by referring to the losses by death during the year of several Fellows of the Society and other entomologists, special mention being made of Prof. H. A. Hagen, the Rev. Leonard Blomefield, Mr. A. C. Horner, Prof. J. Wood-Mason, the Rev. Henry Burney, Mr. J. C. Bowring, the Rev. F. O. Morris, Mr. J. Batty, Mr. Francis P. Pascoe, Herr Eduard Honrath, and Dr. Adolph Speyer. A vote of thanks to the President was proposed by Colonel Swinhoe, seconded by Mr. Jenner Weir, and carried. Lord Walsingham proposed a vote of thanks to the officers of the Society; this was seconded by Mr. Waterhouse, and carried. Mr. Merrifield, Mr. McLachlan, and Mr. Goss replied, and the proceedings terminated.

Royal Microscopical Society, January 17.—Annual Meeting.—Mr. A. D. Michael, President, in the chair.—After the report of the council for the past year and the Treasurer's statement of accounts had been read and adopted, the President announced that the following were elected as officers and council for the ensuing year:—President: A. D. Michael; Vice-Presidents: Prof. L. S. Beale, F.R.S., Dr. R. Braithwaite, Frank Crisp, T. H. Powell; Treasurer: W. T. Suffolk; Secretaries: Prof. F. Jeffrey Bell, Rev. Dr. W. H. Dallinger, F.R.S.; Ordinary Members of Council: A. W. Bennett, Rev. E. Carr, E. Dadswell, C. H. Gill, Dr. R. G. Hebb, G. C. Karop, E. M. Nelson, Prof. Urban Pritchard, C. F. Rousselet, Prof. Charles Stewart, J. J. Vezey, and T. C. White.—The President then delivered the annual address. He took for his subject the growth and present state of our knowledge of the Acari. The name "Acarus" was probably first used by Aristotle; it means uncuttable. But Aristotle did not anticipate Cambridge rocking microtomes, and the President exhibited a set of over 120 serial sections cut from a far smaller Acarus than Aristotle could ever have seen. The President then described what an Acarus really is and in what respects it differs from other Arachnida, a distinction which is erroneously stated in almost all text-books of zoology. The classification of the group practically began with Linnæus; it was shown how difficult it is to identify a Linnean species, and the progress of classification was shortly traced from the single Linnean genus to the two hundred and twelve genera admitted by Trouessart, one of the latest writers on the subject. The President then referred to the fact that many of the predatory Acari had not any special organs of vision, and yet that they were most active creatures, and would catch such agile insects as Thysanuridæ without constructing any web or trap, and did not seem to suffer in the least from their eyeless condition; he had seen small and weak Acari quietly waiting until larger ones had finished feeding before they ventured to attack the leavings, although both were blind. The various forms of acarine parasitism and commensualism were then described, including one where a parasite lives in the fur of the rabbit, not feeding on the host, but on other parasites which really do so, and the number of these which it will destroy is amazing. The President then illustrated the principal families of Acari by selecting one or two instances of each, which were specially interesting either from their habits, their anatomy, or otherwise. The Sarcoptidæ, or bird-parasites, were represented by a parasite of the cormorant, discovered by the President, in which the male has one leg much larger than the other, and the skeleton of the body is greatly modified to support it; but the enlarged leg and modified skeleton are on the right side of the body in some specimens, and on the left in others. The so-called cheese-mites were referred to in order to describe the hypopus-stage in the life-history of many of them; when the creature, which is originally soft and easily killed by heat or exposure, suddenly becomes hard and able to endure almost all vicissitudes, and also to live for a long period without eating; it is then provided with special organs for adhering to insects, and thus the species are widely distributed under circumstances where they would otherwise perish. The President then spoke of his recent researches into the association between many Acari (Gamasids) and certain ants in whose nests they live, and of a still stranger and hitherto unrecorded case, even more lately observed by him, in which a species of Acarus (*Bdella*) lives habitually in a spider's web in harmony with the otherwise most ferocious occupant. The speaker then shortly described his recent discovery of the extraordinary way in which female Gemasids are fertilised, a spermatic capsule being conveyed to its destination by the mandibles of the male. Finally, the descent of the Acari was discussed. The discourse was illustrated by the lantern.

EDINBURGH.

Royal Society, December 12, 1893.—The Rev. Prof. Duns in the chair.—Dr. George Berry read a note on the focus of concavo-convex lenses, the surfaces of which are of equal curvature. The effect of the thickness of the lens was specially considered.—Dr. W. Peddie read a paper on torsional oscillations of wires. The law of decay of oscillations when the set is large was investigated experimentally, and a very accurate empirical formula was given for the representation of the results. A theory of the phenomenon was then investigated, and was shown to lead to the empirical formula as an approximation when the loss of energy per oscillation was not too large a fraction of the total energy of oscillation. The theory was also shown to lead to a relation between torsion and set, which, on application to Wiedemann's results, was found to be in practically complete accordance with experiment. It was shown also to lead necessarily to Kelvin's well-known "law of compound-interest" for the decay of oscillations when these are very small.—Dr. C. G. Knott communicated a paper, by Mr. S. Kimura, on certain electrical properties of iron occluding gases. The gases used were carbonic acid, carbonic oxide, and hydrogen. The paper dealt with the changes of thermo-electric power and of resistance.—Dr. Knott also read a paper, by Mr. S. Tolver Preston, on the ether—an idea of Sir John Herschel modernised.

January 15.—Prof. Sir Douglas Maclagan, President, in the chair.—After the reading of two obituary notices, Prof. Crum Brown communicated a paper by Prof. Alexander Smith, Wabash College, Indiana, U.S.A., on two stereo-isomeric hydrazones of benzoin.—Dr. Knott communicated a paper, by Prof. Tait, on the compression of fluids. In this paper Amagat's recently published results are applied to test the truth of the empirical formula

$$\frac{v_0 - v}{v_0 p} = \frac{e}{\pi + p},$$

where π is the internal pressure and $v_0(1 - e)$ is the ultimate volume under infinite pressure. Tests are made, at pressures of 1, 1501, and 3001 atmospheres, for the substances ether, ethylic alcohol, methylic alcohol, propylic alcohol, carbon bisulphide, iodide of ethyl, chloride of phosphorus, acetone, and water. The quantity e is found to be nearly the same for all these substances, and indicates an ultimate reduction of volume of about 30 per cent. It increases as a rule with rise of temperature. In the case of water, π increases steadily with rise of temperature up to about 40° C. In all other substances π decreases steadily with rise of temperature. These facts correspond to the known changes of compressibility with temperature. An attempt is then made to see how far it may be possible to extend the formula to substances such as carbonic acid at ordinary temperatures, considerable pressure being required to keep the substance in the liquid state. Consistent values of e and π are obtained at temperatures and pressures both above and below the critical point. It is found that π is positive, at volumes a little above the critical volume, over a considerable range of temperature. Hence the Laplace effect predominates over the kinetic repulsion In the other regions for which tests were made, π is negative. It vanishes, at a temperature a little over 80° C., throughout the observed range of volumes. This vanishing of π corresponds to the case of the ideally perfect gas.

PARIS.

Academy of Sciences, January 22.—M. Lœwy in the chair.—Integration of the equation for sound in an indefinite fluid in one, two, or three dimensions, when resistances of various types introduce into this equation terms proportional respectively to the characteristic function of the movement or to its first derived partials, by M. J. Boussinesq. A solution of a problem in the propagation of sound-waves suggested by M. Poincaré in a recent communication.—On the calculation of coefficients of self-induction in a particular case, by M. A. Potier.—Experiments on the histological mechanism of the secretion of granular glands, by M. L. Ranvier. An account of methods employed in observing the cell-activities of the submaxillary gland of the rat.—A study of the fauna of the Gulf of Lyons, by M. H. de Lacaze-Duthiers.—Report on the meteorological observatory established by M. Vallot, near the summit of Mont Blanc, and on the first volume of the annals of the work of this observatory, by the commissioners, MM. Mascart and Bouquet de la Grye.—On the solar phenomena observed at the observatory of the Roman College, during the first two quarters of the year 1893. A letter by M. P. Tacchini, giving details concerning protuberances, faculæ, spots, and eruptions observed. All the phenomena were more frequent in the southern zones, the maximum numbers also were found in these zones. In the first quarter, eruptions were not observed. The maxima of faculæ and spots were found in the same zones (± 10°, ± 20°), of protuberances in higher latitudes.—Note on equations and implicit functions, by M. A. Pellet. — On new experimental studies concerning the form, pressures, and temperatures of a jet of vapour, by M. H. Parenty. Diagrams are given showing the distribution of pressures in jets with apertures of different types.—Contribution to the study of the properties of the arc with alternating current, by M. G. Claude.—On the minimum electromotive force necessary for the electrolysis of dissolved alkaline salts, by M. C. Nourrisson. From thermochemical data the E.M.F. necessary is for chlorides 2·02 volts, bromides 1·75, iodides 1·16, sulphates 2·15, nitrates 2·07, and chlorates 2·07 volts. The experimental results for the halogen salts of the alkalies and alkaline earths agree with these numbers, but for the corresponding sulphates, nitrates, and chlorates somewhat higher values are obtained. The minimum E.M.F. necessary for the electrolysis of a dissolved alkaline salt is constant for oxy-salts and is constant for the haloid salts of the same acid.—On an application of sodium silicate, by M. G. Geisenheimer. The application referred to is that of being used to soften waters for laundry purposes.—On some phosphochromates, by M. Maurice Blondel. The formation and properties are described of bodies having the formulæ $3K_2O.P_2O_5 8CrO_3$ and $2K_2O.H_2O.P_2O_5.4CrO_3$, or $2K_3PO_4.8CrO_3$ and $2K_2HPO_4.4CrO_3$.—Action of sulphuric acid on wood charcoal, by M. A. Verneuil Some of the secondary products have been isolated and identified, notably the penta- and hexa-carboxylic acids, $C_6H(CO_2H)_5$ and $C_6(CO_2H)_6$.—Condensation of isovaleraldehyde with acetone, by MM. Ph. Barbier and L. Bouveault.—Studies on the chemical properties of the alcoholic extract of yeast; formation of carbonic acid and absorption of oxygen, by M. J. de Rey-Pailhade.—On the sea bottom of the region of Banyuls and Cape Creux, by M. G. Pruvot.—A certain symptom of death, indicated by the ophthalmotonometer. Laws of ocular tension. A note by M. W. Nicati.—Some observations on snake poisons, by M. S. Jourdain. Remarks supplementary to MM. Bertrand and Phisalix's recent paper.—On the ichthyological fauna of the fresh waters of Borneo, by M. Léon Vaillant.—A method of assuring and promoting the germination of vines, by M. Gustave Chauveaud.—On the structure of the French Alps, by M. Marcel Bertrand.—On the laws of the contortions of the shell of the earth, by M. Zürcher.—The temperature of the upper atmosphere, by M. Gustave Hermite. The author shows from the results of two balloon ascents in 1893 that the decrease of temperature with the height is much more rapid than is indicated by temperatures recorded at mountain observatories.

Sydney.

Royal Society of New South Wales, September 6, 1893.—H. C. Russell, F.R.S., Vice-President, in the chair.—The following papers were read by Prof. Liversidge, F.R.S. : (*a*) On the origin of moss gold ; (*b*) on the condition of gold in quartz and calcite veins ; (*c*) on the origin of gold nuggets ; (*d*) on the crystallisation of gold in hexagonal forms ; (*e*) gold moiré-metallique. Results of observations of Comet VI. (Brooks), 1892, at Windsor, New South Wales, by John Tebbutt.—Treatment of manufactured iron and steel for constructional purposes, by W. F. How.

October 4.—Prof. T. P. Anderson Stuart, President, in the chair.—On rock paintings by the Aborigines in caves on Bulgar Creek, near Singleton, by R. H. Mathews.—Notes on artesian water in Australia, by Prof. T. W. E. David.

November 1.—Prof. T. P. Anderson Stuart, President, in the chair.—Artesian bores on Bundabunda Station in Queensland, by Hon. W. H. Suttor.—On the probability of extraordinarily high spring tides about the December solstice of 1893, by John Tebbutt—(*a*) On meteorite No. 2 from Gilgoin Station; (*b*) On different pictorial methods of showing rainfall, by H. C. Russell, F.R.S.—On the occurrence of a new mineral "Willyamite" from Broken Hill, by E. F. Pittman.

December 6.—Prof. T. P. Anderson Stuart, President, in the chair.—On the occurrence of Triassic plant remains in a shale bed near Manly, by B. Dunstan.—The orbit of the double star *h* 5014, by R. P. Sellors.—Occurrence of "Evansite" in Tasmania, by H. G. Smith.—On the separation of gold, silver, and iodine from sea-water by Muntz metal sheathing, by Prof. Liversidge, F.R.S.—Notes on the Cremorne bore, by Prof. T. W. E. David and E. F. Pittman.—The progress and position of irrigation in New South Wales, by H. G. McKinney.

Netherlands.

Entomological Society, January 21.—P. C. T. Snellen, President, in the chair.—The President exhibited several specimens of *Vanessa cardui* from different regions, showing that it is a very common species, being distributed over nearly the whole world; he also showed specimens of *Papilio epius* and *Papilio antimachus*, both from Java.—Dr. J. Th. Oudemans announced that he was preparing a revision of Snellen van Vollenhoven's list of indigenous Tenthredinæ ; he also stated that on the pupæ of Lepidoptera the sex can be recognised, and showed a remarkable nest of *Vespa media*.—Mr. A. Brants read an interesting paper on the caterpillar of *Notodonta ziczac*.—Mr. P. J. M. Schuyt proposed the preparing of lists for exchange of indigenous Lepidoptera.—Mr. J. de Vries exhibited a variety of *Xanthia gilvago*, Dr. F. W. O. Kallenbach, a specimen of the rare *Cidaria unifasciata*, and Dr. A. J. van Rossum, a peculiar variety of *Deilephila euphorbiæ*.—Mr. J. R. H. Neervoort van de Poll exhibited a rare variety of *Ornithoptera Priamus*, and a very fine and rich collection of the colepterous genus Haplosonyx.—Dr. Ed. Everts called attention to a third supplement of his enumeration of indigenous Coleoptera, and showed several species not yet found in the Netherlands, but collected in Belgium in the neighbourhood of the limits.—Dr. F. A. Jentink asked if any of the members present had observed cats hunting after butterflies, a fact which he had found mentioned in a British periodical, and which he could confirm with his own experience. Dr. H. J. Veth said he had noticed a similar behaviour of cats against Tineidæ in a house where the latter were very abundant.—Dr. A. F. A. Leesberg called attention to *Meloë autumnalis*, of which several specimens were captured at Mount St. Pieter, near Maastricht, though this species is extremely rare elsewhere.—Mr. W. G. Huet showed a peculiar nest of *Vespa vulgaris* and a web of spider, on which hung a long thread with a small stone at its end.—Finally, Mr. F. M. van der Wulp exhibited several indigenous and exotic species of Hippobosca, Olfersia, and Ornithomyia, and described the principal characters to distinguish these genera and their species.

BOOKS, PAMPHLETS, and SERIALS RECEIVED.

Books.—Alembic Club Reprints. No. 5—Extracts from Micrographia; R. Hooke (Edinburgh, Clay).—Einführung in das Studium der Bakteriologie: Dr. Carl Günther (Leipzig, Thieme)—London Matriculation Directory, No. xv. January 1894 (University Correspondence College).—Congrès International d'Archéologie et d'Anthropologie Préhistoriques, 11-ème Session, à Moscou, Tome 2 (Moscou).—Science and Christian Tradition: T. H. Huxley (Macmillan).—Ein Geologischer Querschnitt durch die Ost-Alpen: A. Rothpletz (Stuttgart, Schweizerbart).—Lectures on Mathematics F Klein, reported by A. Ziwet (Macmillan).—Botanical Wall Diagrams (various) (S.P.C.K.).—Quantitative Chemical Analysis, Clowes and Coleman, 2nd Edition (Churchill).

Pamphlets.—Questions and Answers on Meteorology: R. H. Scott (Williams and Strahan).—Sulla Distribuzione Tipografica dei Terremoti: M. Baratta (Roma).—Carsosaurus Marchesettii, &c.: Dr. A. Kornhuber (Wien).—Ueber Partanosaurus Zitteli Skuphos und Microleptosaurus Schlosseri nov. gen., nov. spec.: Dr. T. G. Skuphos (Wien). Die Mittelliasische Cephalopoden-Fauna des Hinter-Schafberges in Oberösterreich: G. Geyer (Wien).

Serials.—The British Moss-Flora, Part xv.: Dr. R. Braithwaite (the Author, Clapham Road).—Journal of the Chemical Society, Supplementary Number, December (Gurney and Jackson).—Ditto, January (Gurney and Jackson).—Nuovo Giornale Botanico Italiano, vol. xxv. No. 4 (Firenze).—Bulletino della Società Botanica Italiana, 1893, Nos. 8, 9. 10 (Firenze).—The Essex Review, January (Chelmsford, Durrant).—Annalen des K. K. Naturhistorischen Hofmuseums, Band viii. Nos. 2, 3, 4 Wien).—Studies from the Yale Psychological Laboratory, 1892-93 (New Haven).—Jahrbuch der K. K. Geologischen Reichsanstalt, xliii. Band, 2 Heft (Wien).—The Geographical Journal, February (Stanford).

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